United Nations

Daily Highlights

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THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council extends ONUSAL mandate for six months; Mission to verify compliance with outstanding provisions of El Salvador Peace Accords and to withdraw according to progress on implementation.

+ Security Council extends UNDOF mandate to 30 November; says situation in Israel-Syria sector is likely to remain potentially dangerous until comprehensive Middle East settlement concluded.

+ In resolution adopted last night, Security Council lifts arms embargo and other measures against South Africa; welcomes recent all-race election and establishment of democratic Government; South African Deputy President hails victory for United Nations and for world.

+ Security Council, in Presidential statement, demands immediate and full compliance with resolution 913 (1994), requiring cease-fire agreement in Gorazde and throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina.

+ Secretary-General recommends that Security Council extend UNOSOM II mandate for six months and reaffirm its aim to end Operation by next March; troop strength to be maintained subject to military and political situation in Somalia.

+ Zimbabwe offers to contribute infantry battalion to UNAMIR; Assistant Secretary-General for Peace-Keeping completes mission in Rwanda.

+ In address at Johns Hopkins University, Secretary-General says United Nations is best mechanism for promoting global development; notes that Member States owe Organization almost $3 billion.

+ General Assembly President invites 30 eminent persons to testify at World Hearings on Development from 6 to 10 June; participants to air views on Secretary-General's Agenda for Development.

+ Secretary-General reiterates recent appeal for end to fighting in Yemen in accordance with the United Nations Charter.

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For information media—not an official record

+ Speakers tell Committee on Palestinian Rights of optimism following recent development in occupied territories, but warn that actions by Israeli settlers threaten peace process.

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The Security Council today extended the mandate of the United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador (ONUSAL) for six months until 30 November, in the terms recommended by the Secretary-General in his report of 11 May. In that report, the Secretary-General said that ONUSAL should continue to verify compliance with outstanding provisions of the El Salvador Peace Accords, and that the Mission's size should be reduced according to how quickly they were implemented. The Council took that action by unanimously adopting resolution 920 (1994).

The Council welcomed the recent holding of two rounds of elections in appropriate conditions in El Salvador, but expressed concern that important elements of the Peace Accords remained only partially implemented. It urged the Government and the Frente Farabundo Marti para la Liberacion Nacional (FMLN) to comply with the "Agreement on a timetable for the implementation of the most important agreements pending". The Council also urged all concerned to remove obstacles to full implementation of land transfer programmes and stressed the need to accelerate reintegration programmes for ex-combatants. It reaffirmed the need for full and timely implementation of the recommendations of the Commission on the Truth.

The Council asked the Secretary-General to report by 31 August on compliance with the timetable and relevant issues. It also asked him to report by 1 November on ONUSAL, on the completion of its mandate and on modalities for its progressive withdrawal. The Council invited the Secretary-General to prepare modalities for assisting El Salvador, within the framework of the Peace Accords, in the post-ONUSAL period.

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In a second meeting today, the Security Council decided to extend the mandate of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) for six months until 30 November. UNDOF was established in 1974 to supervise the cease-fire and Agreement on Disengagement between Israeli and Syrian forces. In unanimously adopting resolution 921 (1994), the Council called on the two parties to immediately implement its resolution 338 (1973), which called for a just and durable peace settlement to the Middle East conflict. It also asked the Secretary-General to report by 30 November on developments in the situation and on the measures taken to implement that resolution.

In a complementary statement by its President, Ibrahim A. Bambari (Nigeria), after the adoption of resolution 921, the Council said it shared the view expressed by the Secretary-General in paragraph 20 of his 22 May report on UNDOF. That paragraph warned that despite the present quiet in the

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Israel-Syria sector, the situation was likely to remain potentially dangerous until a comprehensive settlement of all aspects of the Middle East problem could be reached.

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The Security Council last night decided to lift its mandatory arms embargo and other restrictions against South Africa. In unanimously adopting resolution 919 (1994), the Council stressed the urgent need to facilitate South Africa's reintegration into the international community. It welcomed the recent all-race election and the establishment of a democratic and non-racial South African Government. The Council also dissolved its Committee on the question of South Africa.

Addressing the Council, Deputy President Thabo Mbeki of South Africa said "the victory that has been won in South Africa belongs as much to the people of our country as to this Organization and the peoples of the world." South Africa was now recognized as a democracy; it was committed to being a good citizen of the world, and could be counted on to adhere to the important goals of international peace and security.

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The Security Council last night demanded immediate and full compliance with its resolution 913 (1994), which required the immediate conclusion of a cease-fire agreement in Gorazde and throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina. In a statement read out by its President, Ibrahim A. Gambari (Nigeria), the Council called on the parties to cooperate fully with the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in the implementation of that resolution in respect of Gorazde.

The Council reiterated the urgent need for an overall political settlement in the former Yugoslavia, and called on the parties to resume efforts towards that end without preconditions. Reaffirming the need for a complete end to the fighting in Bosnia and Herzegovina, it expressed support for the Secretary-General's decision to give his Special Representative and the UNPROFOR Force Commander the task of achieving that goal. It also welcomed the call for a cessation of hostilities in a joint communiqué issued on 13 May by the Foreign Ministers of Belgium, France, Germany, Greece, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom and the United States, and European Commissioner Hans van den Broek.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has recommended that the mandate of the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II) be extended for six months, saying the Somali people deserve "a last chance." In a report dated 24 May, he also recommended that the Security Council reaffirm its objective, set out in resolution 897 (1994), to end that mandate by March 1995. The Operation's authorized strength of 22,000 should be maintained, subject to periodic reviews of the military and political situation, and progress towards

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reconciliation, in Somalia. The Secretary-General said the first review would follow his report on the upcoming National Reconciliation Conference, or on 15 July if the Conference had not taken place by then.

The Secretary-General noted that all the Somali political leaders had appealed to UNOSOM II to continue supporting their reconciliation and rehabilitation efforts. However, despite the more positive attitude towards the Operation, the security situation had deteriorated steadily in Somalia, with military groups rearming and a rise in banditry. The Secretary-General warned that if the Somali leaders failed to work for political reconciliation, he might recommend that the United Nations force be reduced or withdrawn. Accordingly, he had instructed UNOSOM II to prepare a contingency plan for withdrawal from Somalia.

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Zimbabwe has offered to contribute an infantry battalion to the United Nations Assistance Mission in Rwanda (UNAMIR), according to a spokesman for the Organization. With existing offers from Ethiopia, Ghana and Senegal, the United Nations has now secured four of the five battalions needed for the Mission, and is "reasonably confident" that a fifth can be obtained, he said. Efforts will now focus on securing the necessary equipment and support units for the infantry battalions.

Meanwhile, the Assistant Secretary-General for Peace-Keeping Operations, Iqbal Riza, and the Secretary-General's Military Adviser, General Maurice Baril, completed their mission in Rwanda after further talks with representatives of the Government and the Rwandese Patriotic Front (RPF). Mr. Riza and General Baril will now travel to Somalia, the spokesman noted.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today reiterated that the United Nations was the best mechanism for promoting global development. Addressing the Commencement ceremony of the Nitze School of Advanced International Studies at Johns Hopkins University, Maryland, he said peace, economic growth, environmental protection, justice and democracy were all essential for State and human security. They were integral parts of a comprehensive vision of development, which could only be realized through multilateral action.

It was not realistic to expect the United Nations to succeed beyond the willingness of its Member States to act, the Secretary-General continued. The necessary policies, personnel, political will and resources all came -- or failed to come -- from Member States. He noted that the United Nations was owed $990 million for the regular budget and $1.99 billion for the peace-keeping budget, and stressed that the Organization must be given the resources to meet the responsibilities assigned to it.

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General Assembly President S.R. Insanally (Guyana) has invited some 30 eminent figures to testify at the World Hearings on Development, to be at Headquarters from 6 to 10 June. Participants will include prominent academics, former national leaders and media specialists such as Nobel Laureate Lawrence R. Klein, of the University of Pennsylvania Economics Department; Julius Nyerere, former President of Tanzania; and Ted Turner, President of the Cable News Network. Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali will address the opening ceremony on 6 June.

The Hearings are being held against the backdrop of the Secretary-General's "An Agenda for Development", which warns that development is receding from the international agenda in an era of sweeping technological and economic change. Mr. Insanally expects the Hearings to yield innovative views on how to realize the Secretary-General's call for "a compelling collective vision of development" centred within the United Nations.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali met yesterday with the Permanent Representative of Yemen, Abdalla Saleh Al-Ashtal, and reiterated his recent appeal for an end to the conflict there in accordance with the United Nations Charter. He stated that the United Nations was ready to make every effort to avoid further bloodshed and to resolve the situation in Yemen.

Ambassador Al Ashtal, who had requested the meeting with the Secretary-General, stressed that United Nations efforts should be undertaken in the context of the preservation of Yemen's unity.

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Recent developments in the Israeli-Palestinian peace talks have led to renewed hope for the future, Keba Birane Cisse (Senegal), Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, said yesterday. Israeli troops had withdrawn from Jericho and the Gaza Strip and turned over authority to Palestinian representatives. A Protocol on Economic Relations had been signed by Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), and a Memorandum of Understanding on a temporary international presence in Hebron had been agreed upon. The first contingent of observers had been deployed earlier this month. However, the situation in the occupied territory remained tense, and violence continued, making the Committee's work more important than ever, he concluded.

Nasser Al-Kidwa, Permanent Observer for Palestine, said the agreement on an international presence in Hebron opened new horizons, and promised further positive developments. However, he warned that there were also some dangerous aspects, citing the activity of Israeli settlers who were illegitimately present on Palestinian territory and who posed an immediate threat to the peace process. The main task now was to resume negotiations between the parties to implement the second phase of the Declaration of Principles on interim self-governmental arrangements.

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